Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for evaluating suppliers, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving sets of survey inputs from evaluators by a first computer system, the evaluators being associated with an organization seeking suppliers, the evaluator survey input sets being received as evaluator response documents, the evaluator response documents being XML formatted documents having evaluator requirements or preferences defined as XML formatted data elements, wherein the evaluator requirement or preference data elements provide quantitative values and the evaluator inputs define evaluator requirement or preferences as quantitative values for the respective data elements, such a evaluator requirement quantitative value indicating a required or preferred amount for the corresponding data element;

sending survey questions as a question set in a supplier survey document for receipt by a second computer system for a supplier organization and for displaying by a browser of the second computer system, wherein the supplier survey document is formatted as an XML document including information about answers for user input selection, the answer information including types of answers expected from the supplier organization and whether respective ones of the answers are dependent on respective other ones of the answers;

sending an HTML formatted document including programming instructions, the instructions being for receipt and execution as an applet by the browser of the second computer system, wherein the survey questions are rendered in the browser by the browser executing the applet, such that for the rendering of the survey questions the applet parses the questions and the answers into data arrays stored in memory of the second computer system, and wherein the browser executing the applet causes the second computer system to return supplier survey answers to the first computer system as an XML formatted answer response document responsive to the applet processing user inputs and the survey questions, wherein the answers are defined as XML formatted data elements included in the answer response document, the answer data elements having strings of text surrounded by text markups, the text markups including tags describing the data elements;

parsing the answer data elements from the answer response document by the first computer system;

receiving, by the first computer system, rules input by the evaluator organization, wherein the rules define how supplier answers are combined with evaluator preferences or requirements and include weights for respective answers; and

evaluating the data elements by an evaluator process of the first computer system, wherein the evaluating comprises:

comparing the data elements to corresponding ones of the evaluator requirements, wherein the comparing produces quantitative correlations between respective answer data elements and respective evaluator requirements or preference; and

combining the correlations responsive to the weights and the received rules, wherein one of the correlations is defined as (10 – (absolute value (one of the answer data elements – the answer data element's respective evaluator requirement or preference data element))) /10.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the questions and their corresponding answers are organized in categories according to subject matter.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the categories include development process, quality, enterprise, platform, operating system and environment.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

sending programming instructions for receipt and execution by computer systems of the evaluators, the instructions being for causing the evaluator computer systems to return the evaluator survey inputs to the server.

8-24.   (Canceled)